

Spending some days here with  
the Barbours. but return  
home this week. The mild  
winter has brought out all the  
Spring flowers very early. Snowdrops  
& crocuses & violets & primulas  
are in abundance. Sir Charles  
keeps well, & has been working  
in his herbarium lately. There  
is such a nice Arboretum here, &  
some capital houses, one tropical -  
& two well stocked with ferns -  
Pray give Rosanords & my love  
to W. Gray & Believe me  
yours very sincerely  
Katharine M. Lyell

19<sup>th</sup> Feb'y 1854 -

Barton Hall,  
Bury St Edmunds.

My dear Dr. Gray

I felt very pleased and  
proud at receiving a kind  
letter from you, which I hesitated  
to reply to again - as yours  
was in answer to mine forwarded  
my brother in Lewis book - but  
your very kind message for  
W. Gray & yourself, wishing  
us to come over to America,  
has often made me feel  
ungrateful in not having  
thanked you for it. I wish I  
could have the prospect of  
seeing you both, & many  
other very dear & valuable

friends, as well as such that  
is intended in your great  
country, - but then an ordinary  
trip while chain is down, &?  
an getting old! - & though travelling  
is a great enjoyment, a long  
journey requires a good guide  
& helper, to smooth the way -  
so that I fear there is little  
chance of my crossing to Atlantic.  
The dear Hooker is an hour,  
a very anxious time. I went  
with her to "the Camp" to see  
her poor Father one day. He  
has terrible suffering, & the only  
consolation is that they are  
within reach, & very soon she  
<sup>goes</sup> to see her, to help & comfort

her Mother. Poor Mr Bentham's  
failing strength is also another  
sad visit, which Mr Joseph  
pays every week. I call there  
but he is not always able to  
see me. After getting your letter  
( & when he was much better than  
he is now. & reading German  
novels ) I asked him if he could  
not dictate some of his early  
recollections, as you suggested  
but he said "Too Late" ~~but~~ that  
he had left some notes - I  
wish much he could have  
accepted the Hooker's visit, to  
be with them - as it would  
have given him some cheerful  
hours - Rosamond & I are